DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GIS/IPS
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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TO: D - Mr. Christopher

FROM: NEA - Alfred L. Atherton, Jr.

Human Rights and the IFIs

I should like to endorse the remarks made by Secretary Blumenthal in his memorandum to the Secretary concerning the application of human rights criteria to the IFIs. In my view, the comments made by Secretary Blumenthal concerning the need for consistency and selectivity in our actions in the IFIs apply with equal effect to our human rights policy across the board.

I believe Secretary Blumenthal has put his finger on the most direct means of improving the overall effectiveness of our human rights program; i.e., the development of comprehensive human rights strategy papers on all our countries. This process began within the Department last summer but was never completed. In November of last year NEA proposed that the Country Evaluation Plans (CEPs) serve as the basic policy guides and suggested that such documents, once completed, should be updated periodically to assure that they continued to reflect actual human rights conditions and also to serve as a check on whether the recommended courses of action were working effectively. We suggested that such an approach would strengthen our ability to achieve human rights goals while preserving other important U.S. interests by (1) enhancing consistency, (2) saving many hours which are now expended on repeated reviews of countries where no real problem has been found to exist or where no action on our part is contemplated and (3) avoiding establishment of a "hit list" as all countries would be subject to reviews (of varying periodicity). HA agreed in general terms with our proposal.

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Unfortunately, no further work has been done within the Department to focus attention on the need to complete the CCPs. I would urge again that we seek early agreement on strategy papers for each country and focus our human rights initiatives on the recommended courses of action contained in those strategy papers.

Drafted:NEA/RA:DRMoran:yw
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